

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00598 161203Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----162132Z 017491 /66

R 161105Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T DOHA 0598

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US, QA
SUBJECT: IMPROVING US-IRAQI RELATIONS--QATARI VIEWS

REF: STATE 106253, SECTO 04105

1. ON MORNING MAY 16, I BRIEFED QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI, ON CURRENT VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TO BAGHDAD AND BACKGROUND OF US EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. SUHAYM APPLAUDED HABIB VISIT AND OTHER STEPS, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FULL RELATIONS WOULD SOON BE RESTORED. HE AGREED THAT OUR IMPROVED TIES WITH BAGHDAD

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COULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON RIGID IRAQI POSITIONS TOWARD MID EAST SETTLEMENT, AS WELL AS ON IRAQI ATTITUDES TOWARD GULF NEIGHBORS. IN REGARD TO LATTER, SUHAYM DESCRIBED GOQ-GOI RELATIONS AS "OKAY." ACCORDING SUHAYM, IT APPEARED THAT IRAQIS HAD CEASED THEIR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES HERE, BUT HE INDICATED CONTINUING WARINESS OVER GOI'S LONG-TERM INTENTIONS IN AREA. RE IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS, SUHAYM COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH

THESE WERE MUCH IMPROVED, THEY HAD THEIR UPS AND DOWNS. SUHAYM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND BRIEFING, AND ASKED THAT WE FILL HIM IN ON RESULTS OF HABIB'S CONVERSATIONS IN BAGHDAD. (COMMENT: SUHAYM NOTED HERE FOR HIS RELATIVE TOLERANCE TOWARD IRAQIS.)

2. ALSO ON MORNING MAY 16, SINCE APPOINTMENT WITH AMIR IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE ON SUCH SHORTHOTICE, I BRIEFED AMIR'S OFFICE DIRECTOR ISSA AL KAWARI ON HABIB VISIT TO BAGHDAD AND BACKGROUND. KAWARI AGREED TO PASS INFORMATION TO AMIR IMMEDIATELY, EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF US INITIATIVE, AND ASKED THAT WE CONVEY RESULTS OF HABIB'S BAGHDAD CONVERSATIONS TO AMIR. HE TOO REMARKED THAT IMPROVED US-IRAQI RELATIONS COULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON MID EAST SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS AND RELATIONS AMONG GULF STATES.

3. COMMENT: ASSUME WE WILL BE INFORMED OF RESULTS OF HABIB VISIT AND BE AUTHORIZED TO PASS THESE ON TO QATARIS.
PAGANELLI

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NNN

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